

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NYTIMES EDITORIAL FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, HEADLINED "TURKISH BOOMERANG".
2. PRESIDENT FORD HAS ARGUED STRONGLY FOR RECONSIDERATION BY CONGRESS OF ITS CUTOFF OF ARMS DELIVERIES TO TURKEY OVER THE CYPRUS DISPUTE.
3. THE ISSUE IS ESSENTIALLY TACTICAL: IS A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, BOTH NATO ALLIES, AND BETWEEN THEIR CYPRIOTE OFFSHOOTS MORE LIKELY TO BE ADVANCED BY MAINTAINING THE ARMS CUTOFF FOR TURKEY'S NATO FORCES OR BY LIFTING IT TEMPORARILY?
4. THE CONGRESS AGREES WITH THE ADMINISTRATION THAT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE THE PRIME OBJECTIVE OF AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD CYPRUS AND THAT AMERICAN MEDIATION

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IS ESSENTIAL. WHAT IS IN DISPUTE IS HOW AMERICAN LEVERAGE

SHOULD BE EXERCISED AND WHAT RISKS ARE LEGITIMATE IN AMERICAN RELATIONS WITH TURKEY.

5. THE LEGAL ISSUE THAT WAS CONTROLLING LAST FALL--CONGRESSIONAL INSISTENCE THAT A BAN ON ARMS AID WAS MANDATORY AS A RESULT OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS--WAS SIDESTEPED

UNDER AN OCTOBER COMPROMISE. THE PRESIDENT WITHHELD A VETO OF AN ARMS CUTOFF AMENDMENT IN RETURN FOR A TWO-MONTH DELAY, LATER EXTENDED TWO MORE MONTHS BY CONGRESS. THE POSSIBILITY WAS HELD OUT OF FURTHER EXTENSIONS IF SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS WERE MADE TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. WHEN SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WAS UNABLE LAST WEEK TO CERTIFY THAT SUCH PROGRESS HAD YET BEEN MADE--EVEN THOUGH HE REMAINED CONFIDENT OF EVENTUAL SUCCESS--THE BAN WENT INTO EFFECT.

6. HOWEVER, IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT THE HALT IN ARMS DELIVERIES MAY BE DECREASING, RATHER THAN INCREASING, AMERICAN LEVERAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. TURKEY'S FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED OFF A PLANNED BRUSSELS MEETING WITH MR. KISSINGER AND THE GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER, ON THE BASIS THAT HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT AMERICAN MEDIATION UNDER PRESSURE OF THE ARMS CUTOFF. A TURKISH OFFER TO LET 5,000 GREEK CYPRIOTE REFUGEES RETURN TO THEIR VILLAGES IN TURKISH-DOMINATED BORDER AREAS WAS TURNED ASIDE BY THE GREEKS, REPORTEDLY FOR FEAR THAT ANY FORWARD MOVEMENT MIGHT CAUSE CONGRESS TO RESTORE ARMS SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY. AND NOW THE TURKISH CYPRIOTES HAVE FELT FREE TO TURN THEIR FEDERATION PROPOSALS INTO A FAIT ACCOMPLI BY PROCLAIMING THEIR SECTOR A SEPARATE STATE.

7. THE FREEZING-OVER OF THE NEGOTIATING CLIMATE SUGGESTS THE DESIRABILITY OF A RETURN TO THE MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH CONGRESS TOOK AFTER VOTING THE ORIGINAL CUTOFF. IT COULD KEEP THE HEAT ON BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND ANKARA BY GIVING A FURTHER TRY TO THE OCTOBER COMPROMISE. A SIX-MONTH WAIVER OF THE ARMS EMBARGO, CONDITIONAL ON REGULAR ASSURANCES FROM MR. KISSINGER THAT FRUITFUL NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDER WAY, WOULD UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES

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SEEM PREFERABLE TO THE PRESENT DEAD-END PEACE TALKS, WITH ALL ITS DANGERS TO THE SOLIDITY OF NATO. END TEXT INGERSOLL

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